

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: MPO Officials Committee

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, June 13, 2002, 2:30 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Mayor Wesely, Bob Workman, Bernie Heier, Jon Camp, Steve McBeth (representing John Craig)

Others: John Ludden, Phyllis Hergenrader, Bruce Lind, Stephen Burnham, Mike Carlin, Ann Harrell, Allan Abbott, Roger Figard, Kent Morgan, Mike Brienzo, Karen Sieckmeyer

Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the December 13, 2001, Officials Committee Meeting.

Chair Workman called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2001 meeting.

Mayor Wesely made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Heier. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 2 - Election of committee officers. According to the Bylaws, Committee officers consisting of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made to elect Bob Workman as Chair and Bernie Heier as Vice-Chair by the Mayor, seconded by McBeth. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 3 - Public Comment Period.

There were no public comments.

Item No. 4 - Review and action on the FY 2003-2005 and 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mike Brienzo explained briefly the TIP Program which consist of projects for both the City and the County. The format for the TIP is the same as the CIP and is also brought before the Planning Commission at the same time of the CIP to ensure that projects are identified the same and coordinated with all agencies. The TIP went to the Technical Committee on May 7, 2002 and recommended approval with minor amendments which are included in the document under the comment section. The Public Hearing was held on May 21, 2002 and comments were also included in the comment section. After approval, it will be advanced to the State to be included in their CIP and then forwarded to the Federal Highway Association.

One of the things the Mayor was trying to determine is the time frame for the widening of I-80 in the Lincoln area. Steve McBeth said they had a time frame but he didn't have it with him. Originally, they were going to start the widening in Omaha but the Mayor would like it started in Lincoln and Omaha. Allan pointed out

on Page A10/A11, it talks about the Municipal Airport West, Oak Creek Bridges, and Cornhusker Highway Bridge Widening. It shows this construction starting in 2003-2004. The State has programmed Interstate 80 work beginning in 2003-04. The Mayor just wanted to emphasize that it is his feeling that if we are going to widen I-80 that we shouldn't be out in the middle of nowhere with four to six lanes when we could use those six lanes in Lincoln and come to the rural areas in time. That is a change that the Mayor would like to see us support.

There being no further questions or comments, Bernie Heier made a motion to approve the TIP, Mayor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 - Review and action on a recommendation regarding 2002 Certification that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations. Recommendation is on the last page of the 2002 Certification Report.

Mike explained that the report is put together each year identifying rules and regulations that we are accountable to the Federal Highway Association by federal legislation. Overall what this document says, is that we have a planning process that works and every year we take a look at it and tell the Federal Highway Association that this process is working. Once every third year, they come to Lincoln and meet with us and go over all the documents in detail but in the interim we do a self certification.

Mayor Wesely mentioned that on the Page 2 of the recommendations, it mentions an ITS Plan. The Mayor asked is this was something that we should do. Mike answered that it is identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan. We are working toward implementing our ITS Plan. We will be setting up an ITS Subcommittee for the Technical Committee which will report to the Technical Committee and then to the Officials Committee. The Mayor asked what the time line was for this committee and Mike said they didn't have a time line at this time. Allan mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration has held a couple of sessions in Omaha which we have attended and we are working with the State in order to get on the list. Allan also mentioned that this probably will be tied in with a couple of other studies, i.e. the Mobility Study, and the ITS Study so we will be having a time line very shortly. The Mayor would like to suggest that this be done within a year.

The Mayor moved that the 2002 Certification which shows that we are complying with federal laws and regulations be approved, seconded by Heier. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 Review and action on the FY 2002-2003 Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning.

Mike also prepares this annually with the assistance of other departments in the City as well as the County and the State. It is an effort to coordinate the planning efforts within agencies as well as departments. The program makes it possible for us to receive federal funding for these studies. It focuses on studies rather than construction projects.

Mike said that the major studies that they are looking at now are amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan which is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. Review and update of the MPO Perspective is a big project this year and development of the Annual Transportation Report and frame work for the Transportation System Management Program will be coordinated and developed this year.

The Technical Committee did review this document and recommended it to the Officials Committee for action and approval.

Jon Camp said that for a couple of years there has been a report of a downtown shuttle. He knows that it is more of a route type of system. Jon asked if this was something that could be looked at as a possible study? Mike thought it would be very appropriate. As soon as the frame work is put together for the mobility study, it will be run through the Officials Committee and maybe council to make sure that it is addressing the key issues that they feel are important. Jon said that there would be a magnetic smart card where you could utilize it in parks, buses, museums, etc. That is what Jon would like to see in Lincoln where we would have a Park & Ride and then be shuttled. Mike thought this could be included in the Mobility Study or we might want to identify the downtown area and then an overall system study which would include pedestrian, bicycle, as well as shuttle services in the downtown area. Mike thought the University should be included in this project. Allan was asking for clarification on the Mobility Study. If we included Councilman Camp's idea for a Park & Ride in the Mobility Study, would we need approval from the Officials Committee with the appropriateness of the Mobility Study before any decisions are made? Mike said it would be presented to the Technical Committee first and then to the Officials Committee.

There being no further discussion, Berne Heier moved to approve the Unified Planning Work Program, Mayor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #7 - Review and action on the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan.

This document was reviewed by the City Council and County Board and adopted on May 28, 2002 and the Mayor signed the Council Resolution on May 29, 2002 so this is a joint City County Comprehensive Plan which includes a Joint City County Long Range Transportation Plan. The Long Range Transportation element is what the MPO uses as reference for all of the planning documents as well as infrastructure programming projects. This becomes a reference for all the other documents that have been reviewed today.

For those who are not familiar with the MPO it is the recognized body that the Federal Highway Administration does communicate with in terms of federal funding. Federal Highway Administration want to look at our Long Range Transportation Plan that is approved by the MPO. This recommendation will carry forward and we will transmit the document to the State and the Federal Highway Administration. If they approve of our process, they will accept this document.

There being no other comments, the Mayor made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan, seconded by Camp. Motion carried unanimously.